Special Commando Force for Jammu and Kashmir

1998. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the army has a plan to raise a special commando force or an elite unit of its own on the pattern of the National Security Guards to flush out militants from mosques and shrines in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether such a force would be for a limited purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Agreement with Pakistan to stop firing across the border

1999. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the incidents of firing across Pakistan border has been increasing, targetting the innocent civilians;

(b) if so, the number of such incidents as a result taken place during this year from 1st January till today and the casualties thereof;

(c) whether Government have made any efforts to make agreement with Pakistan to stop firing across the border; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) While no agreement exists between the two sides as regards the stoppage of firing along the International Border, Line of Control, Actual Ground Position Line, Indian security forces deployed here always exercise great restraint. There has also been a substantial decline in the firing from across the International